

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
July 23, 2014



George Schuster in front of the centuries-old barns and silo at his Goshen farm, one of 300 protected from development under the state's Farmland Preservation Program. The milestone will be celebrated Sept. 20 on the Lebanon Green.

PRESERVED GOSHEN FARM AMONG 300 TO BE CELEBRATED AT SEPT. EVENT IN LEBANON

By Steve Jensen, Office of DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky

George Schuster doesn't call himself a farmer, but one would be hard pressed to find someone more passionate about protecting farmland – including the centuries-old farm in Goshen where he was raised and still lives.

The 51-acre property along a high, open ridge has been farmed since at least the late 1700s, when it was owned by Revolutionary War Capt. John Buell. Schuster – a well-known preservation advocate in the area – conveyed its development rights to the state in 1990 to ensure it remained in agricultural production.

"Things have two values – a dollar value and a real value," he said while walking the farm last week. "This is just about perfect farmland. I love this property, and I didn't want to ever see houses here."

Schuster's farm is one of 300 protected under the Dept. of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program – a milestone that will be marked by a Farmland Preservation Celebration Sept. 20 on the Lebanon Green. All farm families who have participated in the program are invited to the free event, as is the public.

Plans include a bus tour of local protected farms, hay rides, a photo display and other exhibits featuring preserved farms, as well

as live music, square dancing, children's activities and food prepared on site by a variety of chefs specializing in farm-to-table cooking.

"Keeping our working lands in agricultural production is one of Connecticut's highest priorities," said DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, who was a property agent in the preservation program for eight years. "Protecting 300 farms since the program was created in 1978 is a remarkable achievement that not only should be commemorated, but should inspire all of us to commit to building on that success."

The mile-long Lebanon Green was chosen for the event because of its uniqueness and its proximity to nearly three dozen preserved farms in town – the most of any Connecticut community. Families who participated in the preservation program will soon receive formal invitations to the event, scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Across the state in Goshen, the Schuster farm is one of a cluster of protected properties in town, including the Breakell, Cunningham, Gray, Perkins, Thorn, Vaill and Vonder farms.

(Continued on Page 3)

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
49-54	200-300 lbs	91.00	96.00
	300-400 lbs	85.00	91.00
54-58	200-300 lbs	97.00	102.00
	300-400 lbs	92.00	94.00
Sows,US1-3	300-500 lbs	70.00	75.00
	500-700 lbs	74.00	75.50
Boars	400-720 lbs	40.00	40.50

PA GRADED FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. June 18

		Low	High
Gr US 1-	WT 20-40	250.00	385.00
	WT 40-50	225.00	250.00
	WT50-60	200.00	210.00
	WT60-70	225.00	325.00
GR.US 2-	WT20-25	325.00	385.00
	WT25-30	235.00	325.00
	WT30-40	250.00	310.00
	WT40-60	185.00	235.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, July 21, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	55.00	58.00
61-75 lbs.	60.00	85.00
76-90 lbs.	190.00	195.00
91-105 lbs.	200.00	205.00
106 lbs. & up	210.00	215.00
Farm Calves	220.00	225.00
Starter Calves	70.00	76.00
Veal Calves	165.00	200.00
Open Heifers	140.00	145.00
Beef Steers	115.00	130.00
Beef Heifers	126.00	130.00
Feeder Steers	120.00	160.00
Stock Bulls	160.00	177.50
Beef Bulls	131.00	140.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	110.00	270.00
Kid Goats	95.00	150.00
Canners	up to	115.00
Cutters	116.00	119.00
Utility Grade Cows	120.00	124.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	4.00	37.50
Chickens each	4.00	35.00
Ducks each	5.00	13.00
Feeder Pigs	70.00	140.00
Lambs	115.00	190.00
Sheep	110.00	145.00

EASTERN, PA HAY

average price per ton

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	205.00-320.00	170.00-170.00
MIXED	190.00-400.00	150.00-185.00
TIMOTHY	190.00-360.00	145.00-185.00
STRAW		115.00-165.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
BLUEBERRIES CLAM SHELL	24.00	24.00
BLUEBERRIES PULP/NET	30.00	32.00
EGGPLANT,1 1/9 BU	20.00	20.00
ALFALFA SPRTS 5 IB	14.00	14.00
ARUGULA,4LB	12.00	12.00
BASIL1/2BU 12'S	15.00	15.00
BEAN SPRTS 10IB FILM	6.00	6.00
BEETS CARTON 12'S	12.00	14.00
BEETS,GOLD,12'S	18.00	18.00
CUCUMBERS,SELECT,1 1/9BU	15.00	15.00
CORN,5DZ	14.00	18.00
CABBAGE,GREEN,50IB	11.00	12.00
CABBAGE, RED 50IB	14.00	14.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY 50IB	14.00	14.00
COLLARD	12.00	12.00
SQUASH,YELLOW,FCY,1/2BU	9.00	10.00
SQUASH,YELLOW,MED,1/2BU	5.00	7.00
SQUASH,GREEN,FCY,1/2BU	9.00	10.00
SQUASH,GREEN,MED,1/2BU	5.00	7.00
BEAN GREEN,BU	26.00	28.00
CUKES,SUPER SELECT,1 1/9	22.00	25.00
BEAN WAX, BU	26.00	26.00
DILL,24'S	18.00	18.00
MINT,12'S	10.00	11.00
PARSNIPS ,25LBS	21.00	23.00
PARSNIPS 18-11B	23.00	23.00
RADISHES 1/2BU	18.00	18.00
KALE,12'S	12.00	15.00
SWISS CHARD,12'S	18.00	18.00
TOMATOES GRNHSE 12 IB	20.00	20.00
BEETS,STRIPED,12'S	18.00	18.00
CUKES,PICKLES 1/2BU	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES ,25LBS	35.00	35.00
PEACHES 1/2BU,YELLOW,2 1/2	24.00	28.00
PEACHES 22LB ,WHITE,2 1/2	24.00	28.00
NECTARINES 22LB BOX	26.00	28.00
PLUM,METHLEY ,20LB	24.00	26.00

**WHOLESALE BROILER/FRYER PARTS
NORTHEAST, PER LB.**

	Low	High
BREAST-B/S	2.15	2.20
TENDERLOINS	2.35	2.40
LEGS	.65	.66
LEG QUARTERS	.49	.50
THIGHS	.74	.75
B/S THIGHS	1.36	1.37
WINGS	1.44	1.45
LIVER,5LB TUBS	.55	.60
GIZZARDS	.75	.80

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:

breakers 75-80% lean	106.75	111.75
boners 80-85% lean	101.75	106.75
lean 88-90% lean	94.75	100.00

CALVES graded bull

No 1 94-128	246.75	284.25
No 2 112-120lbs	225.00	257.50
No 3 100-130lbs	175.00	225.00

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS

HiCh/Prm3-4	152.00	156.50
Ch2-3	146.25	152.50
Sel2-3	139.00	144.00

SLAUGHTER STEERS.

HiCh/prm3-4	157.75	162.00
Ch2-3	153.00	157.50
Sel2-3	147.75	152.25

SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS

HiCh/prm3-4	142.075	148.50
Ch2-3	136.75	140.25
Sel2-3	132.25	136.25

VEALERS

50-60lbs	200.00	220.00
60-80lb	188.00	200.00

80-110lbs	186.00	202.00
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SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3

90-110 lbs	80.00	88.00
110-130lbs	88.00	102.00

Bucks

190-200lbs	60.00	88.00
200-250lbs	44.00	68.00

SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.

20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	132.00	154.00
60-80lb	145.00	180.00
80-110lb	175.00	200.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130lbs	135.00	187.00
130-160lbs	150.00	195.00
Bucks/Billies: 140-160lbs	210.00	235.00
150-200lbs	245.00	285.00

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.44	1.48
LARGE	1.42	1.46
MEDIUM	.98	1.02

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.64	1.74
LARGE	1.59	1.71
MEDIUM	1.26	1.36

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

100-R. Farm for sale in Bristol. 13 acres-32X36 barn and outbuildings. 1940 farmhouse with 3 bedrooms. City sewer and well water (city water available). Pasture fenced, 2 brooks. 860-635-1379.

102-R. Canton-Historic post & beam Colonial on 11 acre mini-farm. Barn and outbuildings. Perfect for horses, livestock & vegetables. \$469,000. Call Clint Charter, 860-558-3908. Wallace Tustin Tetreault Realty.

107. N.H. 55 rake. \$800.00. Dearborn sickle, 6 ft., good condition. \$100.00. 860-999-3856 after 5 pm.

108-R. Purebred Katahdin Ram for sale. Great producer, registration papers available, mostly white. \$350.00. 860-354-9069.

MISCELLANEOUS

10-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

101-R. Greenhouse space available for lease in Guilford. 75,000 sq. ft. glass houses can divide into 25,000 sq. ft. sections. Excellent access to I-95. Call Tom at 203-885-6885.

WANTED

98-R. Standing timber wanted, Hardwood/softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 15 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

PRESERVED GOSHEN FARM AMONG 300 TO BE CELEBRATED AT SEPTEMBER EVENT IN LEBANON

(Continued from Page 1)

Schuster's farm has been in his family since his grandparents, Wolf and Louise, bought it on Aug. 20, 1914. More than 100 invited guests will join him in marking the farm's Centennial with a barbecue there next month.

Schuster loves to recite the farm's history, which he believes dates to the days when Native Americans raised crops there. Capt. Buell built the original 25-by-25-foot "dwelling house" in 1778, and a second of matching size was later attached to the first. Those spaces still form the core of the farmhouse where Schuster lives.

From 1850 to 1909 the property was known as Shady Lawn Farm. Schuster's grandparents bought the place after emigrating from Germany, taking out a \$2,275 mortgage calling for monthly payments of \$100.

They raised dairy cows and pigs and grew an assortment of vegetables and fruits, including pears from a grove of enormous trees that are still producing today.

Schuster's father, Herman, took the farm over in 1946, after returning from serving in Europe during World War II. He also ran a diversified farm business that included keeping a flock of about a thousand laying hens and raising rabbits for meat that he mainly sold to workers at the brass mills in Torrington.

"He did everything he had to do to make ends meet," Schuster recalled.

Since the mid-1960s, the fields have been leased to local dairy farmer Anthony Damiani, who raises hay for his herd.

Schuster, a retired carpenter, said he always enjoyed helping out at the farm and tending to the property, but never considered himself a farmer.

Over the years he has restored several of the barns and other outbuildings, including some that he says date to the 1700s. The roof beam in one of the barns is a single, 36-foot-long piece of Chestnut cut from a tree on the property.

He believes a shed where he now stores tools was once a tiny schoolhouse moved from its original location down the road.

"A farmer I am not," he said with a laugh. "It's not in my blood. But this is where I was as a kid, this is my home and this is how it is going to stay," he said. "This is how Goshen used to be."

His dedication to maintaining agricultural integrity is also what led him to be among the founding members of the town's Agricultural Council. That effort was prompted by what he saw as an increasing need to foster harmony between farmers and new residents as the town grew.

More specifically, he said a resident's complaint about the smell of manure being spread at a nearby farm was the impetus for passage of a farm ordinance in 2011 that makes provisions for such practices to continue in residential areas.

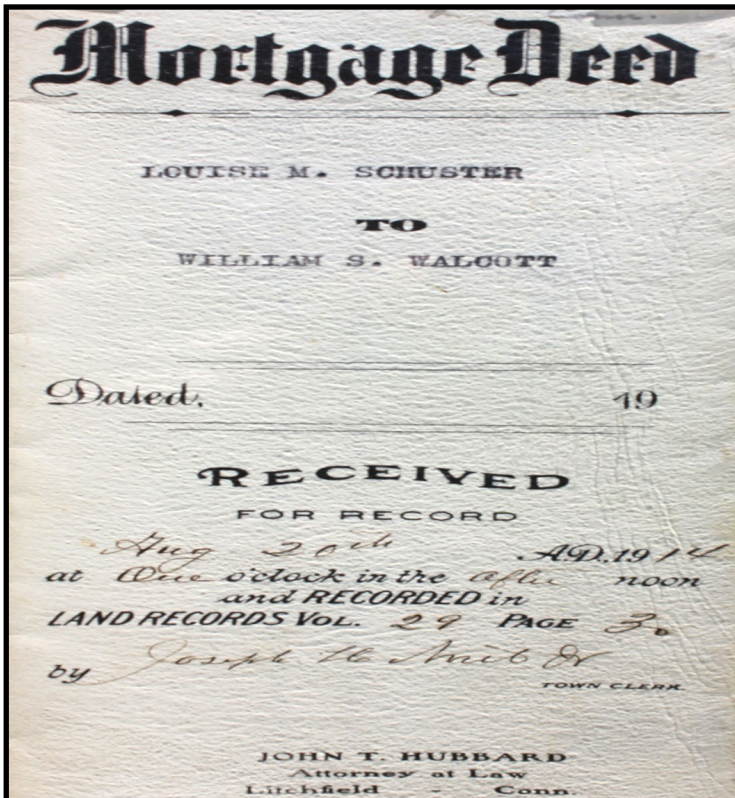
Schuster also is a founder of the Friends of Goshen Agriculture, a private group whose goals include raising funds to obtain matching grants to purchase and preserve farmland in the area.

George Malia, a Goshen resident who works with Farm Credit East, said Schuster's leadership in farmland preservation is helping to solidify the future of agriculture in the region.

"George has been the driving force in Goshen's efforts not only to promote farmland preservation," Malia said, "but to improve the viability of all the remaining farms in town and across Litchfield County."

CLARIFICATION

The CT Farmland Trust partnered with the Dept. of Agriculture this year in purchasing development rights to the 158-acre McCaw Farm in Lebanon. The trust's participation in the transaction was omitted in a July 2 article in the CT Weekly Agricultural Report.



The 1914 mortgage deed that George Schuster's grandparents secured to buy their Goshen farm.

ANNUAL CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE EVENT SEPT. 20 IN WOODSTOCK

The annual Celebrating Agriculture event will be held Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Woodstock Fairgrounds on Route 169 in Woodstock.

Activities include agricultural demonstrations and displays featuring farm animals, products and equipment old and new.

Hay rides, a farm tour, a scavenger hunt and a forestry fair and competition are also scheduled, as well as entertainment and children's activities.

Admission and parking are free of charge. More information is available by calling the Danielson USDA Service Center at:

860-779-0557, ext. 109 or at
www.celebratingagriculture.org



Above, a sign advertising George Schuster's grandfather's business hangs in a toolshed that Schuster believes was once a schoolhouse moved from down the road.



Left, the view out of the toolshed's door looks toward hay fields that are leased by a local farmer for dairy support.

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